Majority of the books, newspapers, magazines exported are in the English language.

Import of fabrics under special import Licence

888. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow import of fabrics and garments under special import licence; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBMARAM):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Details are contained in Public Notice No. 271(PN)/92-97 dated 15.2.1995 of Ministry of Commerce, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

US proposal to India for APEC Membership

889. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India signed a number of agreements with USA during the visit of US Commerce Secretary to India;

(b) if so, the main features of each of the agreements signed.

(c) whether it is also a fact that U.S. Commerce Secretary expressed the view that India could apply for membership of APEC; and

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBMARAM): (a) and (b) During the visit of Mr. Ronald H. Brown. United States Secretary of Commerce to India in January 1995, India and USA signed an MOU on the formation of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance. The Commercial Alliance provides a frame work for increased interactions between the private sector Enterprised in both countries for expanding business relations. Chief Executive Officers of 25 large American Companies accompanied Mr. Ron Brown on this visit and signed or announced a number of agreements etc. in different sectors including Power, Telecommunications, Petro Chemicals involving private sector investments.

(c) No such view was expressed by the US Commerce Secretary during the official talks.

(d) Do not arise.

Difficulties faced by consumers due to shortage of Coffee

890. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the common man in the country is facing a lot of difficulty in getting enough coffee for their use, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(b) whether it i also a fact that exporters try to export more coffee to earn more in terms of foreign exchange:

(c) what is the total requirement of coffee for local consumption in the country and steps taken to meet the increasing needs of the consumers; and

(d) details of the coffee exports and consumption within the country during the last three months together with Government's action to meet the local needs of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) With a record production of coffee in the year 1993-94, there is no dearth of coffee for cosumption in the domestic market. However, the common man has been facing difficulties due to raise in price of coffee.